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JORDAN TIMES

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AMMAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1977 — RABIE AL THANI 18, 1397

India to remove press curbs

NEW DELHI, April 6 (R). — The Indian lower house of Parliament today approved legislation removing curbs on the press. The bill was supported by the opposition Congress Party that introduced the restrictions. The curbs will end when the upper house gives its approval. The Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matters Act gave the government powers to ban reporting of specific subjects, close down papers and seize presses. Information Minister L.K. Advani told the lower house that it was not for the government to impose a code on the press. "Let it conduct itself," he said. Mr. Advani also announced today that the Janata Party government was against monopoly in news agency operations.

Pakistanis demonstrate again

KARACHI, April 6 (AFP). — The nine-party opposition Pakistani National Alliance today staged demonstrations in the city when the curfew was lifted after 17 days. An official announcement said police fired tear gas to disperse them. Reports from other cities said the government's order prohibiting public meetings and processions was defied at Hyderabad, Sukkur, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar. More than 20 persons were arrested. A curfew was imposed in more than half of Karachi on March 19 last in the wake of violent demonstrations by the opposition which wants fresh general elections as it alleges that the March 7 poll was rigged.

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Nablus youths demonstrate

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank, April 6 (R). — Hundreds of Arab youths stoned Israeli soldiers and Arab-owned shops today to protest against Jewish settlement in Israeli-occupied territory. Israeli troops used tear gas to break up the protest but there were no reports of arrests or injuries.

The youths stoned Arab merchants who did not close their shops in Nablus, the main town of the occupied West Bank. All the shops in the city centre and the nearby old city immediately closed their shutters.

Today's protest followed a march by thousands of ultra-nationalist Israelis through the Samarian hills of the West Bank yesterday to oppose any Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

That march touched off an immediate Arab counter-demonstration in Nablus in which 12 people were detained after brief clashes with Israeli forces.

In Bethlehem, Mayor Elias Frej complained that the town was broke and could not even pay salaries to its employees. He said the town now had only 20,000 Israeli pounds (\$2,000).

Mr. Frej said the Israeli military government had provided promised funds. A spokesman for the government said the authorities refused to provide any further funds until the municipality deducted income tax from salaries.



JIHAN ON T.V. — Mrs. Jihan Sadat, wife of the Egyptian president (left), who accompanied her husband on his trip to the U.S.A., emphasises a point to correspondent Margaret Osmer and viewers during her appearance in Washington, Wednesday, on ABC's Good Morning America programme.

Rejects Carter's idea at Washington press meet

Sadat: Israel cannot have 2 borders

WASHINGTON, April 6 (R). — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said today he disagreed with President Carter that Israel might be permitted to station forces beyond its geographical borders under a Middle East peace agreement.

"Sovereignty is indivisible," he told a press conference. "We can't have two borders for any country."

President Sadat, who was on the last day of his visit here, said he and Mr. Carter had discussed the idea, which the U.S. leader mentioned recently, at their White House talks this week.

"We agreed on certain points and we differed on others," he said.

President Sadat also rejected another suggestion by Mr. Carter for a buffer zone, perhaps under international control, between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

"No one can yield any part of his land," he said. He said there could be no settlement in the Middle East unless the Palestinians were present at the Geneva peace conference, which he and President Carter hope will be resumed later this year.

President Sadat, who previously announced he was seeking F-5e and F-5f fighter aircraft and other American military equipment, said that this issue was still open.

He added that he did not submit a specific shopping list to Mr. Carter and that an agreement was not reached because he did not insist on having one.

President Sadat, who leaves Washington later tonight, told a questioner that Egypt would normalise relations with Israel when a Middle East peace settlement had been reached.

He said with a chuckle that he would nevertheless still bar trade with the Israelis because "they are in an economic mess, like me."

President Sadat expressed concern over what he called Soviet and Cuban involvement in Africa. He noted that Cuban leader Fidel Castro recently visited Moscow after touring a number of African countries.

"What concerns me is this: I don't want to wake up in the morning one day and see what has happened in Angola happening in Sudan," he said.

Mr. Sadat pledged that he would fight side by side with the leaders of Sudan if that country were threatened.

Meanwhile, a West German Foreign Ministry spokesman in Bonn said today that President Sadat will arrive in West Germany tomorrow for a private stay of several days in the Black Forest region of southwestern Germany before returning to Cairo.

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In letter to Premier Badran King Hussein launches social security scheme

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein, in a letter addressed Wednesday to Prime Minister Mudar Badran, requested the government to begin the studies necessary for the enactment of a legal framework to embody a social security scheme for Jordan.

His Majesty told Premier Badran that "the time is now appropriate for legislation which will guarantee the working individual and the good citizen welfare and security against sickness, incapacity, unemployment and old age, and which will afford the individual's family possibilities of decent livelihood, as a gesture of our faith in the Jordanian individual and as an encouragement for his additional loyal and constructive work."

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His Majesty King Hussein meets soldiers from Al Hussein Ibn Ali brigade Wednesday. (JNA photo).

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Leftists appear ready to begin major offensive in south Lebanon

BEIRUT, April 6 (R). — Palestinian and leftist gunners today pounded the strategic town of Marjayoun near the Israeli border in apparent preparation for a major offensive on rightwing positions in Lebanon's sensitive south.

Fighters in the area said that leftist-Palestinian troops had been joined by the Syrian-controlled Sa'ida Palestinian commando organisation in showering heavy-calibre shells and rockets on Marjayoun, the most important rightist stronghold in southern Lebanon.

Over the past few days, Sa'ida had also been involved in ground fighting and hit-and-run attacks in joint operations with Fateh, the biggest Palestinian resistance group.

Observers here said that Sa'ida's backing of other Palestinian guerrilla groups fighting for control of villages along the border with Israel appears to signal a significant change in Syria's attitude towards parts of the Lebanese right.

Informed sources here said that Syria was increasingly looking with disfavour at the close links between Lebanese rightists, who had appeared to be allies of Syria in the later stages of the civil war, and Israel which frequently covers rightist action in southern Lebanon with concerted artillery fire from positions across the border.

The sources also said Syria was displeased with the hardline on the Palestinians taken by rightwing leaders such as Mr. Camille Chamoun of the National Liberal Party (NLP).

Palestinian sources in Beirut said military reports received indicated the rightist defenders of Marjayoun were weakening. The town was overrun by the right last October after prolonged fighting with heavy casualties.

Travellers from the south reported that the Bint Jbeil area had come under artillery fire from rightist positions as right-wingers were attempting to push south on the road running parallel to the barbed-wire fence forming the Israeli border.

But the Palestinians and their leftist Lebanese comrades-in-arms, buoyed by their success yesterday in beating back a massive rightwing counter-offensive, had repulsed the assault, travellers reported.

Yesterday's fighting, described as the biggest battle since last November, centred on Taybeh, a hill-top village on an im-

portant road junction. Taybeh was overrun by the right last Thursday and retaken by the Palestinians five days later.

Commanders in the area said yesterday that

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Deputy Managing Editor: Bassam Hammad
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JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION
University Road - P.O. Box 4714 - Amman, Jordan
Tel. 6711/2/3/4 - Cable: JORDPRES - Telex: 1487 (AJRS)

Britons go to Mintoff's aid to help Malta's development plans

A panel of retired Britons living in Malta is to help the Malta government in its efforts to provide jobs. Many of these residents have great experience and expertise in industry, commerce and the professions -- just the sort of experience needed on the island. The panel will work with the Malta Development Corporation and will advise in the setting up of new industrial projects.

VALLETTA, (Gemini) — A "think tank" of Britons retired in Malta is to be set up to help the Maltese government in its development plans. The British Residents Initiative (BRI), as they will be known, will place what has been described as their "considerable expertise and experience in the commercial, industrial and professional activity" at the disposal of the Maltese government. They will work closely with the Malta Development Corporation (MDC).

Their main task with the corporation will be to advise in the setting up of new intensive, export-oriented projects. The idea that Britons resident in Malta should offer their services in an advisory capacity, was mooted as far back as October 1975 by the British Residents Association.

The association published an appeal in its magazine Malta Life and gave a list of the industries in which their members had expert knowledge. These ranged from specialisation in fuel technology, geology with special reference to the development of mineral resources, marine superintendence and port development, among other things.

Many of the members had occupied high positions in industry and other sectors in Britain and in former British territories before they retired to Malta.

The British Residents Initiative, launched by the British Residents Association though not officially a part of it, aims to reach all persons with something to offer irrespective of whether he or she has a permanent residence permit or not. It aims especially to reach anyone who may have an idea for the creation of a new industry, or the further development of an existing one.

The setting up of the "think tank" was the brainchild of Malta's Prime Minister, Dom Mintoff, who suggested it during a meeting with members of the British Residents Initiative. BRI will include men with high level experience in production engineering, industrial research, technological services, factory management, marketing, merchandising, exporting and public relations. The first exploratory meetings have already been held and several promising projects are under review.

That Malta could do with such expertise is a well-known fact. The prime minister himself said in one of his broadcasts that the island was handicapped by the lack of managers and went as far as to say that he would not hesitate to import foreigners should the need arise. The Minister for Labour, Miss Agatha Barbara, has also said that there was a need for more marketing experts since their shortage was one of the main problems facing Maltese industry.

What has surprised many in Malta is why it had taken so long for successive governments to tap this wealth of experience. The influx of British residents began in the 1960's when many, attracted by very low income tax rates and the cheapness of property, settled in Malta. The newcomers paid sixpence-in-the-pound income tax and became nicknamed the "sixpenny settlers".

Their arrival resulted in a property boom and the Nationalist government of the day was heartily attacked by Mintoff's Malta Labour Party, then in opposition, for selling the land to the foreigners. Dom Mintoff himself once said that he preferred tourists to permanent residents. The rates the settlers pay in

income tax now are the same as every Maltese pays and there are other conditions, such as the one under which the holder of a permanent residence permit must do no work and own only the home in which he lives.

Other conditions relate to the amount of capital they must bring into Malta before they are given residence permit.

The number of permanent residents is not as large as it was some years ago. Many left when the tax rates were increased. A further decrease in their number is expected before March 1979, when the British presence in Malta ends with the lapse of the seven year agreement on the lease of bases to Britain and NATO.

The British, the only foreign forces allowed on the island, are already packing up. The navy is rarely seen in Malta's harbours nowadays except for the occasional frigate. The air force still has its maritime reconnaissance squadrons at Luga airfield but the royal marines unit "axe" under British defence economies, is soon to leave.

The experts among the residents can still do much to repay the hospitality the Maltese have always shown them and will, no doubt continue to accord them, even after 1979. Dom Mintoff's government, elected to a second five-year term last September, is determined to set up as many industries as it can. The aim is two-fold -- to absorb the labour which would become gradually redundant as the British forces leave and to increase exports.

Dom Mintoff has said that Malta will never again serve as a foreign base and will gain its true independence in 1979.

It is for that reason that his government is accelerating its industrialisation programme, which it is hoped the British settlers will be able to assist. The more Mr. Mintoff can achieve between now and March 31 1979, the nearer he will be to his dream of an independent and economically viable Malta acting as a bridge between Europe and Africa.

Third Circle Phantasmic By Omar Jawad The vast Arab potential...

I am a fervent Arab nationalist, and I believe that the Arabs are at a stage in their historical development where great possibilities are staring them in the face. So I have scanned our Arab landscape to find out what it is that the Arabs can do best and what it is they need most, in order to put the two together and make full use of our potential.

I have found that what the Arabs can do best is to fight each other, and what they all seem to want most is to further the great development objectives they have. So why not combine these two aspects of the Arab personality for the good of all? I have an idea, as I usually do, and I propose it for public discussion.

My idea is to harness the full power of the war in southern Lebanon and use it for constructive developmental purposes. How is this to be done? Very easily, really, if you consider that even nuclear explosions can be used for positive purposes.

My suggestion is to take the Lebanese war on tour throughout the Arab World, much like a circus or an orchestra makes a tour of many countries and plays to different audiences. The benefits of this would be varied and substantial. For one thing, it would be a real show in the arm for the Lebanese postcard industry, which has been understandably dormant of late.

The old cards showing cedar trees and setting suns at Byblos could be replaced by daring and bold new pictures of Abu Azzi eating a cedar tree or such lovely southern pastoral villages as Marjeyoun or Taybeh. A special Arab Unity card could be sold on Arab League day to mark the spirit of fraternity that has reached its peak in Lebanon. We could explain the mechinegus by saying that this is a traditional Lebanese symbol of greeting and hospitality, as well as a symbol of how well the Arabs have been able to assimilate the transfer of Western technology.

With the tremendous Lebanese entrepreneurial spirit, I'm sure someone there would come up with a slogan such as "Rent-A-War" or "Action on Your Doorstep" to publicise the touring war. It would be a big boost for such places as Aqaba, which is trying to promote its tourist attractions, but still suffers from a lack of leisure activities. What better than an indigenous Arab war to liven up those slow evening hours?

The combatants could be restricted to, say, the new floating dock, which could be conveniently floated out to the middle of the gulf so that special dinner-dance parties could be held along the hotel-fronts to the soothing background sights and sounds of artillery, hand-held rockets and automatic rifles. Bathers lounging on the sand would have a tremendous visual extravaganza, which could be advertised abroad as the most spectacular light and sound show ever staged.

There are other ways the Lebanese war can be taken on tour to help Arab development. Think specifically of the plan to widen and deepen the Suez Canal. Instead of paying hundreds of millions of dollars to foreign companies to do the work, why not let Arab technology and enthusiasm do it at a far lower cost? After all, if the war is still going on in Lebanon, we may as well get some use out of it.

I can imagine the combatants on opposite sides of the canal, blazing away at each other. The canal would be widened and deepened within a matter of weeks. Of course an Egyptian engineer would just have to keep telling the fighters to move along the length of the canal, and we'd have to hire a foreign dredging company after it's all over to pull the bodies out of the water. For added realism, we could ask for a few rounds of Israeli shelling now and then, particularly when pre-emptive destruction is required for those really tricky engineering jobs.

While the war is in that part of the Arab World, I could also see taking the boys out to the Western Desert in Egypt to help the oil exploration work that's going on. What would the expense of seismic testing these days, we could save large amounts of money by taking advantage of the enormous explosive power of the Lebanese war. The fighters would have to pause briefly after each shell is fired so the engineers could read their meters, but I'm sure this can be arranged.

Similar uses can be made of the Lebanese war throughout the Gulf region, where war construction projects are being undertaken. I Jeddah needs some hilly land levelled and cleared to make room for a big new airport or a housing scheme, the Lebanese war could be flown down there for a week and the job would be done cheaper and faster than any foreign contractor could hope to do it. And with the Lebanese and the Palestinians both involved, we'd have the cream de la creme of Arab science and business-mindedness. We could print special publicity brochures describing the full range of seismic services available from the Lebanese war teams, and I could even imagine the war being taken on tour to Europe or the United States in the near future. I can think of no more fitting testament to the happy marriage of Arab and American technologies, capabilities than if the Lebanese war could be held in the Texas Astrodome indoor stadium some cool summer evening.

But all this and more could come at a late stage. The spinoffs for television and radio are endless. International tours and special annual cultural festivals are both good possibilities. The income that can be generated from intelligent uses of the Lebanese war is virtually endless. I just mention these ideas briefly in the hope that others will refine them and perhaps start applying them. I know that we have tremendous capabilities in the Arab world, and I don't like to see our efforts wasted.

Dr. Doubletalk

Henry Kissinger came back to the U.S. Congress this week to make some comments about oil and American foreign policy, and, as in the days of his incumbency, he blended nonsense and contradiction in his own inimitable professorial manner. The thrust of Dr. Kissinger's remarks to a Senate subcommittee was that the United States should beware lest foreign oil producers hold American foreign policy "hostage". He especially mentioned the danger of Arab oil producers affecting America's commitment to Israel.

Dr. Kissinger is a strange fellow to talk about American dependence on foreign oil, as it was part and parcel of his global strategic plan to spin an ever tighter web between the United States and some of the major oil producers, notably Saudi Arabia and Iran. In fact, between 1972 and 1974, or in the critical period when the OPEC states started taking control of their oil industries as well as the price of internationally traded oil, it is now clear that America's tacit policy then was to let the price of OPEC oil rise, on the rationale that the U.S. would emerge from the new oil picture as the strongest industrial power, that the wealth accruing to several large OPEC states (also primarily Iran and Saudi Arabia) would help these states remain close to the American camp as strong and well armed allies in a very important region of the world, and that the United States in general would stand to benefit from higher oil prices because it had the banking system and the industrial capability to meet the OPEC states' needs to recycle their excess cash as well as assist them in their vast industrialisation and development programmes. One of the cornerstones of American foreign policy during the past five years has been to form deep links with selected OPEC states. It is for this reason that today we no longer hear anything about the Kissinger-Simon plan to form a \$25 billion safety net to help industrial states hurt by the oil price rises, and that we similarly no longer hear much at all about Dr. Kissinger's personal baby, the International Energy Agency, which is still worth little more than the paper its founding charter is printed on.

The blunt reality that Dr. Kissinger and most Americans refuse to face up to is that American energy use is rising, domestic American energy production is declining, and the gap between the two is made up by foreign oil and gas. For all of 1976, total U.S. energy use rose by 4.8 per cent, and imports of crude oil and petroleum products increased 21.4 per cent, to account for 40.6 per cent of American oil use, according to U.S. government figures. In January of this year, oil imports in the U.S. averaged above 8.7 million barrels a day, or a full 50 per cent of total American oil consumption.

This is the reality of the world Dr. Kissinger has brought about for the American people by his policies while in office. It is an act of pitiful hypocrisy and intellectual savagery for him to go to the U.S. Congress this week and warn against foreign oil producers holding American foreign policy "hostage". In or out of office, the man apparently has no shame.

OPEC takes increasingly precarious role since December split

LONDON, (Gemini) — The Western oil-consumer world has been mesmerised by the power of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ever since the traumatic developments of October 1973 which changed forever the balance of the world economic order.

At first the West behaved as though it faced total economic doom. Then it adjusted to higher oil prices and attempted to destroy OPEC power and to divide its members from the rest of the Third World.

Recent tactics along these lines have included the suggestion that Saudi Arabia invited to join the Group of Ten rich financial countries since her huge wealth gives her a special responsibility to help maintain the world's economic system (which means the western capitalist system), and the suggestion that Iran should be invited to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Both these measures, of course, are designed to detach the two most powerful members of OPEC from the rest. Such tactics did not look especially likely to succeed as long as OPEC maintained its solidarity.

All this changed last December with the Doha, Qatar, OPEC meeting which saw a split in the ranks of the organisation for the first time -- something the West had been hoping and working for during the preceding three years.

Thus, as of January 1 this year, Saudi Arabia decided to go against the wishes of the majority of the OPEC nations and increase the price of her oil by no more than 5 per cent (she was joined in this by the United Arab Emirates) while the other eleven members, led by Iran and Iraq, put their prices up by ten per cent.

The West was delighted and hailed the Saudi action as "statesmanlike". Saudi Arabia has the reserves to make possible such a lone stand and is now talking seriously of a major increase in her total output.

In the meantime the hawks -- and especially Iran -- have learnt a bitter lesson as the western consumers have been queuing up to obtain a greater proportion of cheaper Saudi oil at the expense of the rest of OPEC.

This suffered a disastrous drop during the first nine days of January when output fell to a level of only 3.5 million bpd.

One consequence of this changed situation has been a determined Iranian bid to force her customers into barter deals for her oil and this tactic may well have major new trading consequences for the future.

By February 1977 a compromise was being suggested: That each camp would adjust its prices by 2.5 per cent -- the Saudis increasing the price of their oil by that amount, the other OPEC members reducing theirs by the same percentage.

So far the suggestion has borne no fruit while pressures are mounting upon Saudi Arabia (from within and without) to increase her output so that it can take up a larger part of consumer demand.

The real question at issue is whether OPEC -- as it appeared to be in the heady days of 1973-1976 -- can continue as a major factor in the world economic picture or whether it has passed its peak of influence

as a result of the split; and because of new factors in the oil picture.

First, the split. It is certainly serious for OPEC and no doubt welcome to the consumers, yet too much should not be read into it.

The interests of OPEC members in retaining or returning to a policy of solidarity are very great indeed and though Saudi Arabia may appear willing for the present to embark upon a course of its own it should not be overlooked that it is first and foremost an Arab state and that if it cannot obtain the breakthroughs it is seeking by its present policy -- over the Israeli question and the North-South Dialogue -- it may well return to the OPEC fold and become a hawk.

More important for OPEC are other oil developments outside its membership. First, there are a number of indications that the Soviet Union, which has a substantial surplus to all its needs, is determined to increase its share of the world export market.

Second, there is still a major question mark as to what en-

ergy policies the new Carter administration in the United States will follow. At present, it is true, the U.S. is importing some \$ 8 million bpd, mainly from OPEC sources, but the immediate indications are of still greater reliance upon such imports and most especially those from Saudi Arabia.

On the other hand there are the prospects of "safe" Alaskan supplies coming on tap and there could be a determined new U.S. energy policy.

Third, there is the North Sea oil. Not only will Britain be self-sufficient by 1980 (though it will continue to import crude and export some of her own production for various trading reasons), but it and Norway between them will be in a position to supply a very large part of the total import requirements of the European Economic Community (EEC).

Thus, over issues such as the North-South Dialogue it seems probable that for the next few years the West will talk much and do little until it is in a strong enough position to cease making any concessions at all.

Fourth, there is the impending of China which -- on present showing and predictions -- could well be in a position to supply a large part

of Japan's needs by 1980, thus again cutting much of the need for OPEC oil.

Finally, new friends are constantly being made: Mexico appears about to enter the big producer league and there are high hopes for substantial finds in other places, such as Cameroon in Africa. All these possibilities make the present predominant position of OPEC increasingly precarious for the future.

On the other hand new predictions of consumption patterns now appear to suggest that despite all the new finds and developments demand is again about to rise at such a

rate that by 1985 there will be an absolute shortage of supply. Should this indeed be the case then, despite new finds and variation on the oil scene, OPEC remains very powerful indeed.

If it is to play the part economically and politically in relation to the North-South Dialogue, for example, it would clearly like to do it it should try, and quickly, solve its differences and present to the consumer world once more a solid front -- single price structure. What this is practicable possibility, the immediate future seems to be.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Three Jordanian dailies discussed in their Wednesday editorials the Middle East crisis, the rights of the Palestinians and the Arab solidarity needed to enable them to face the enemy.

AL RA'I, under the heading "Before we go to Geneva" said that the protest march which took place Tuesday on the West Bank, organised by the ultra-religious Gush Emunim movement, is but an example of Israel's true intentions for peace. It also confirms the veracity of the Jordanian analysis which is a warning to Arabs to beware and be cautious, as the wish for peace proclaimed by the Arabs and the international community has no place in Israel's plans. Israel's only pre-occupation at present is to ensure more expansion, as demonstrated by the Israeli actions.

This contradiction between Israel's wish and that of the majority of nations may seem strange to us, the paper said, but this has not prevented Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin from discussing peace efforts in Washington on the one hand while on the other hand passing the U.S. administration a new military shopping list.

Our methods of countering these measures have not changed either. What is required from us, the paper concluded, is to adopt a new method other than just voicing support for the struggle of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Otherwise we shall find when we go to Geneva that we will just be mourning the losses.

AL DUSTOUR, under the heading "The Palestinian homeland and the Arab situation" outlined the emphasis placed by His Majesty King Hussein, in an interview he gave to French television, on the necessity for the participation of the Palesti-

nians in the Geneva conference.

This emphasis, the paper added, illustrates the true picture of Jordan's stand on the problem; something Jordan has always tried to achieve. This condition is essential, without which no peace settlement could succeed.

What is also important, the paper added, is to enable the Palestinians establish a Palestinian homeland on Palestinian soil; not on any other. It goes without saying that Jordan supports such a policy.

A second fact many times affirmed by His Majesty was that Arab strength is the only factor which will enable us to recuperate the Palestinians' rights. Therefore, it rests with the Arabs, the paper added, to build their strength and bolster their solidarity, for strength alone will give them the choice to move and act when and in the manner they see fit.

AL SHA'B, said that His Majesty's repeated warnings to avoid placing too many hopes on the efforts to reconvene the Geneva Middle East peace conference stem from the fact that, if reconvened, the conference will only be the start of a long and arduous process with even chances of success or failure.

Also His Majesty's call for Arabs to increase cooperation among themselves and bolster solidarity would place the Arabs in a stronger position which would enable them to choose the appropriate alternatives at the suitable time in case the reconvening of the conference fails.

We are in need of more cooperation and self-sacrifice, the paper said, to build an Arab force capable of shaping events and imposing its will at the time it sees fit.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6	9:20 Variety show	10:15 Play
6:00 Quran	6:30 Cartoons	6:30 English by television
7:00 Lucy show	8:00 News in Arabic	Channel 3
7:30 Science and life	8:30 Quiz programme	
(On 886 KHZ)	7:00 Morning melodies	7:30 News
7:40 News reports	8:00 Sign off	12:00 Pop session
13:00 News summary	13:05 Pop session	14:00 News
14:10 Radio magazine	14:30 Music made easy	14:45 15 weekly

RADIO JORDAN

15:00 Concert hour	16:00 Old favourites	16:30 Easy listening
17:00 Play of the week	17:30 Pop session	18:00 News summary
18:05 Pop session	18:30 Science report	19:00 News
19:00 News	19:30 News report	19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Gradya (22668)	Hamada (24530)
Amman:	Hamada (24530)	Fakhoury (24856)
Bahib Iskandar Armanos (38680)	Jamil (38680)	George Sayegh (21370)
Abd: Ahmad Bishawi (3925)	Mustapha Hijawi	Abdul Karim Khachashnah (38022)
Pharmacies:	Amman:	Jhad (71567)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	Departures:
6:00 Cairo (EA)	6:00 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)
6:30 Baghdad, Bahrain, Doha, Kuwait, Baghdad	8:00 Beirut
10:30 Beirut	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
11:45 Kuwait (KAC)	8:45 Cairo (EAJ)
16:20 Aqaba	10:00 Athens, Madrid
18:45 Cairo	10:30 Rome
18:55 London	12:30 Rome, Paris
17:00 Copenhagen, Vienna	12:45 Beirut (KAC)
19:40 Beirut (MEA)	14:30 Aqaba
20:05 Amsterdam, Athens, (KLM)	19:00 Jeddah
20:20 Riyadh (SDI)	21:30 Riyadh, Doha (SDI)

BBC RADIO

05:00 News: 24 hours	13:00 News: 24 hours
06:00 News: 24 hours	13:45 Radio Theatre
08:15 The World Today	14:30 Music on Music
09:00 News: Press Review	15:00 Radio Newsworld
09:20 A City and its Music	15:15 Outlook
07:30 News: 24 hours	16:15 Come to the Opera
07:30 Sarah Ward	16:45 The World Today
08:15 A Muslim Remembers	17:00 People and Politics
08:45 International Soccer	17:45 Sports Round-up
Special	18:30 News: Radio Newsworld
09:30 Farming World	18:30 Radio Show
09:50 News: UK Press Review	18:45 Best of Black
10:15 News: The World Today	18:50 Best of Britain 1977
09:30 Financial News	19:00 News: Outlook
09:45 Music Now	19:20 World News: 24 hours
10:15 Wales 77	21:15 People and Politics
11:00 News	21:30 The King's Singers
11:00 News	21:30 Paperback
11:15 The Energy of God	22:00 News: The World Today
11:30 The City They Left Us	22:25 Financial News
12:15 Radio Newsworld	22:35 The Melody Makers
12:15 Top Twenty	22:55 Sports Round-up
12:45 Sports Round-up	23:00 News: Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

03:00 The Breakfast Show	18:00 Special English, News
03:30, 04:00, 05:00 and 05:30 GMT: News, 18:30	18:30 News Summary
06:30 Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 03:30, 19:30	19:30 News Summary
06:30 and 05:30 GMT: An Informal presentation of popular music 20:00	20:00 VOA Magazine, Arts, Science, Culture Letters
17:00 News Roundup, Reports, 21:30	21:30 VOA World Report
21:30	21:30 News Summary
21:30	21:30

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 25111
Civil defence rescue	24861-4
Fire headquarters	22000
First aid, fire, police	19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36881-3
Municipal water service (emergency)	37111-3
Police headquarters	37111-3
Najfeh, serving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	21111, 3777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41230
British Council	36142-3
French Cultural Centre	37000
Goethe Institute	41800
Soviet Cultural Centre	42800
Amman Municipal Library	36111

جورنال صحت انجمن

Special seminar in Amman spotlights conditions of Jordan's women workers

This week a seminar is being conducted in Amman as a joint effort by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Jordan's National Planning Council. One of the issues of the seminar is to discuss the role of women within the labour force and see what it is that stands in the way of expanding their role. Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, Dr. Suleiman Abdel Ati and Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh from the University of Jordan's Faculty of Economics and Commerce are presenting the following research paper at the seminar. It is the result of research they have made concerning the status, conditions and attitudes of women workers. Through the survey they statistically identify women's present role in Jordan's labour picture and relate women's attitudes toward their work, which shows some of the problems facing working women.

Introduction

Although females usually constitute approximately only half of the population in any given society, their participation in the labour force varies depending upon the stage of development in that country and the social conditions and mores prevailing in it. It is, however, safe to state that women are economically active in the more developed societies than in the less developed regions of the world. 1970 statistics show that 39 per cent of the women in Japan were economically active while the percentages for the Soviet Union, United States of America and the United Kingdom were 44 per cent, 30 per cent and 33 per cent respectively for the same year. All are highly industrialised societies. By contrast, only a small percentage of women participate in economic activities in the developing countries. In India, for example, only 12 per cent are economically active, while their share in economic activities is smaller in the Arab countries amounting to less than 10 per cent. For 1972 in Jordan women constituted 3.5 per cent of the economically active population.

In view of the tremendous emphasis on social and economic development current in the Arab world, it would seem that the governments of the region should pursue policies designed to attract and induce more women to enter the labour force. With this very idea in mind, Jordan in 1976 held its first seminar on the "Labour Force-Women" to ascertain the status of women's participation and ways and means whereby such participation could be increased. Some of the recommendations of that seminar have already been implemented. In particular a special department for women's affairs was created in the ministry of labour designed to follow-up, implement and improve the recommendations of that seminar and in turn increase women's participation in the labour force.

The shortage of labour currently felt in Jordan, even in the unskilled and semi-skilled categories will no doubt continue well into the future. It is, no doubt, not only a reflection of Jordan's intrinsic developmental needs, but reflects also Jordan's response to the development needs of the surrounding Arab countries. Thus it is not only a desire to alleviate the status of women for altruistic and social reasons alone that more women need to be drawn into more productive pursuits, but necessity of responding to the demands of development as well. It may be worthwhile to keep in mind Jordanian women have traditionally been less prone to seek job opportunities abroad. Cultural and social factors in Jordan and the surrounding areas

have definitely prohibited such a movement so far. Thus it would seem that the entry of women into the Jordan labour market would tend to act as a stabilising factor of long duration.

Of an estimated population of 1.9 million in the East Bank of Jordan in 1975, 20 per cent or 382,000 people were active in the labour force. Of this number about one third (125,000) were engaged in agricultural activities and another one third (127,000) in civil non-agricultural employment. Of those engaged in agricultural activities, one third were women while only 13.6 per cent of the non-agricultural labour were women in 1975.

In terms of the total labour force, females constitute 23.5 per cent of those employed in the social services and public administration sector and 16.5 per cent.

In 1975 more than 70 per cent of female employment in Jordan was in the social services and public administration sector. Two reasons for the concentration of women workers in this sector are: First, the field of social services is considered more suitable for women and, second, the area of public administration includes education where girls in Jordan attend separate schools and are taught by women teachers. Besides, teaching is a socially acceptable occupation for women in civil non-agricultural institutions. 8332 women or 48 per cent of women's total employment in Jordan includes the education services.

Woman employment is negligible in most economic activities aside from manufacturing and social services and public administration. Therefore, there is a need to attract more women into the labour force in those activities.

The purpose of this paper is to provide some basic information about the status of working women in Jordan such as age, education, marital status, etc. Moreover, women workers' income, attitudes towards work, on the job difficulties, family attitudes, etc are analysed and evaluated.

To ascertain the conditions and some of the difficulties facing the working women in Jordan in economic activities other than those in the traditional fields of education and agriculture, a survey was conducted covering a textile factory, a pharmaceutical firm, a financial institution, a hospital and a social services institution.

This paper, based on a questionnaire attempts to assess the economic and social status and background of working women in Jordan. In addition it included some questions designed to ascertain some of the real problems facing working women. While it does not proclaim itself to be exhaustive, having

depended on a limited sample of only selected work places, not including women engaged in the teaching and other professions, it does give an idea of the status and problems of working women in certain sectors of the Jordanian economy. Needless to say, time and material limitations prevented the sample from being wider in scope hoping that later studies will help to fill the gaps.

The survey

The questionnaire was designed and filled out by 189 (21 per cent of women working) working women in five institutions in the public and private sectors. The choice of the five institutions under study was meant to cover a wide spectrum of economic activities some of which are traditionally women oriented.

Most institutions are located in Amman. This fact, however, is not expected to prejudice the results since about 71 per cent of working women are in Amman Governorate. Moreover, the education sector which employs about one half of the workers is excluded from the study since it has unique characteristics and merits a study by itself.

The questionnaire is composed of fifty five questions which cover the social and educational status of working women, type of work, income, work hours, and difficulties facing those women. Moreover the women were asked to express their views about their work and attitudes of members of their families toward work.

The analysis

Analysis of the collected data will conform as much as possible to the main sections of the questionnaire.

Marital Status

The study reveals that the great majority of the surveyed women are single. Specifically, 71 per cent of those women have never been married, whereas 21 per cent are married, and the rest (8 per cent) are either divorced or widowed. The high percentage of single women workers may be explained by two possible reasons: They are more inclined to look for job opportunities because of less home responsibilities or institutions favour

single women in their employment policies. It is interesting to note that all women employed in the Hussein Pharmaceutical Co. are not married whereas only 52 per cent of those in the Hussein Social Institute are not married. It was discovered, however, that the pharmaceutical company hires only single females and as soon as one of its single females gets married she is discharged.

Age

The survey shows that most women workers are relatively young. 84 per cent of the surveyed women are 35 years old or less, while 96 per cent of the total are no more than 45 years of age. The average age of the woman worker is about 28 years.

It is apparent that older women tend to work in social institutions and hospitals. More than one third of the women workers at Ashrafia Hospital and the Hussein Social Institute are older than 35 years. Conversely, almost all of the women employed in the companies and the Central Bank are less than 40 years old. The probable reason for the concentration of young women in these institutions is that they have been established fairly recently.

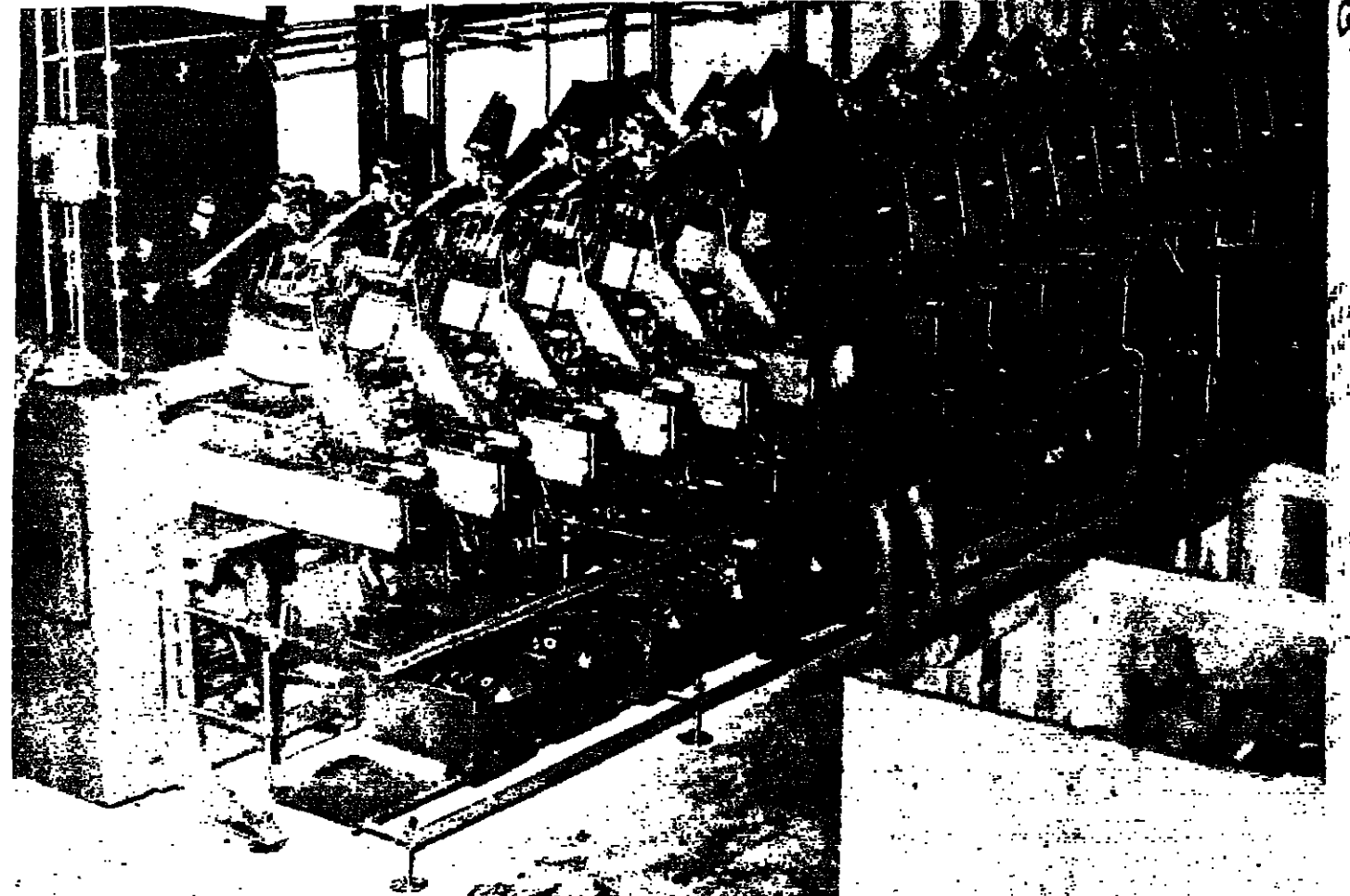
Education

The survey indicates that 42 per cent of the women in the sample, have a minimum of secondary education: 22 per cent secondary, 11 per cent junior college, and 9 per cent college education. Most of the women with college education, however, are employed in the Central Bank.

Women with the compulsory level of education (elementary and preparatory) seem to have ample employment opportunities. Forty six per cent of the women employed in the sample fall into this category. Only 12 per cent of the women in the sample are illiterate, and all of these work in the Jordan Clothing Co., Ashrafia Hospital, and Hussein Social Institute.

Occupation

The study reveals that the surveyed women are employed either as manual workers, administrators (secretaries), with very few exceptions, even those with college education do not occupy technical or upper level managerial posts. The analysis shows that although 9 per cent of the women in the sample hold a college degree, only 2 per cent of this category hold jobs which require this kind of education. The implication is that college education among women is neither appreciated nor fully utilised. On the other hand, nursing, which seems most suitable as an occupation for women, suffers from the lack of educationally qualified women in this field. Out of 29



Young woman working in a company winding yarn onto cones.

women who are employed at Ashrafia Hospital as nurses only 8 of them (28 per cent) hold nursing diploma and the rest attained a lower level of education.

Among the most important reasons for seeking employment, financial inducement was given as a prime reason. Forty two per cent of the responses state that the most important reason for seeking paid employment was the income factor, while 24 per cent of the responses state that they worked to prove that women can hold a job or a position as successfully as men. - 18 per cent worked out of boredom and 15 per cent stated that they worked to utilise their attained education.

Most of the surveyed women did not face any difficulties in securing their present jobs: 18 per cent stated that they had no problem in getting employed, 13 per cent had difficulties, and a bare 6 per cent had great difficulties. However, the kind of difficulties encountered by those women depended upon the nature of the job. In institutions like Jordan Clothing Co. and the Hussein Pharmaceutical Co. it seems that employment needed strong recommendation and endorsement by friends of decision makers or influential community people before they could be employed. While in other institutions such as the Central Bank an unduly long period of waiting preceded employment.

Respondents state that secretarial, typing, teaching, nursing and sewing jobs are better suited for women with academic or vocational training. The very few women who work as pharmacists, chemists and accountants prefer to stay on their present jobs. Moreover, several women think that the job should be suitable for women's physical and biological characteristics.

Daily work hours

It was found that daily work hours for the surveyed women ranges from 6 hours in the Central Bank to more than 10 hours in the Hussein Pharmaceutical Co. However, the women who work for more than 6 hours a day, especially at the Hussein Pharmaceutical Co., complain that they have a very long working day. It is surprising, however, that only 34 per cent of all the women expressed the wish that daily work hours be reduced.

Whenever the daily work hours are 8 or more, the work is either continuous or over two periods. However, 77 per cent of the women who work 8 hours or more prefer a continuous work day because this arrangement enables them to go home early to do house-keeping chores and to avoid traffic rush time, and only 23 per cent prefer the two periods.

Income

79 per cent of the surveyed women have a salary of JD. 50 or less and 95 per cent have a salary of JD. 100 or less. However, the average monthly wage is JD. 39. It is worth noting that 40 per cent of the women believe that they get the same wages as men in comparable jobs, 25 per cent believe they receive less wages, and 35 per cent do not know.

If the income brackets are indicative of the social status, then it may be presumed that 35 per cent of those families have less-than-average income or less than JD. 50 per month, 42 per cent have an average income, 16 per cent enjoy an above average income, and 7 per cent attain a high level income. The average family monthly income was about JD. 78, exactly one-half of which was earned by the respondent indicating the centrality and importance of her

position and income in the family.

The analysis exhibits the positive correlation between the income of the women worker and her level of education.

Transportation

The survey reveals that 43 per cent of the women face a problem in getting to and from work. Most of them do not have their private means of transportation and have to use the means of public transport, walk, or have transportation provided by the firm. Almost one half of these women use a taxi, 23 per cent go to work by bus including that furnished by the institution, and 13 per cent go by the family car. A mere 14 per cent live within walking distance of the place of work.

Working with men

Women in general are not averse to working with men on the same premises. Although 22 per cent of the women hold jobs that do not require work with men, it is shown that 91 per cent of the surveyed women do not perceive that they have any problems in working with men, and only 9 per cent see that they have some problems. However, some of the women state that they face a two-dimensional problem: One with the administration of the firm which they think is sometimes prejudiced against women and the other with their fellow workers who lack understanding of working women.

Family attitudes

The following analysis pertains to attitudes of families of both single and married workers.

Single women

Only 15 per cent of the single women in the sample were faced with initial family objections to working outside the home, whereas 85 per cent faced no initial objections at all. The respondents indicated that those members of the family who objected most were the father, then the elder brother with the mother rarely objecting.

The survey indicates that family objections to women's work were overcome mainly through persuasion, income inducement, and the mere passage of time. After a period of time family objections diminished to a mere 1 per cent and the family changed its attitude and in fact started supporting the concept. However, single women workers did not have a clear idea concerning the possibility of working after marriage. Only 17 per cent of

those women state that they will continue working in the same job after marriage, 3 per cent plan to change their present job, 19 per cent will abide by their husband's wishes, 31 per cent will quit working, and 30 per cent do not know what they will do. Conversely, 44 per cent of those women will quit after having children.

Married women

The sample included 39 married women, 5 divorcees, 11 widows. These women seem to face problems of their own. Only 11 per cent of the husbands and 18 per cent of husbands' families object to the wife working outside the home. However, 73 per cent of those women think that there are conflicts between their home duties and job requirements, but 93 per cent of them state that they could smooth out those conflicts and continue working. The troubles facing married women workers stem from pregnancy, children at preschool and children of school age, children's health, lack of appropriate nurseries and husband's unwillingness to help in the home.

The investigation shows that 41 per cent of the married women think of leaving their jobs soon or at a later date. Only 46 per cent prefer to continue in their employment. Though women in the latter category believe that they will stay at work, only 35 per cent of them think they will continue until retirement and the rest (65 per cent) either will discontinue work before reaching retirement age or have not decided yet.

Conclusions

A way of life that has prevailed for many centuries is now in the process of change. A change seemingly accelerated and baffling to some and very slow and inefficient to others. The forces behind this change, ostensibly desired by all strata of the society, are not only the blind forces of abstract economic laws but the conscious and determined will of women, decision makers, and politicians. The mood of development prevalent in twentieth century societies makes such a trend a desired end in itself. Development economics, a tool of the welfare state necessitates the participation of more persons in the economic order. In order to achieve such participation, women had to be emancipated from the veil, symbol of many centuries of ignorance, drudgery and subjugation.

Whether as an end in itself or as a means to achieve a better standard of living for all me-

members of the society, women had to stop being wards, or less, and had to become entities in their own right.

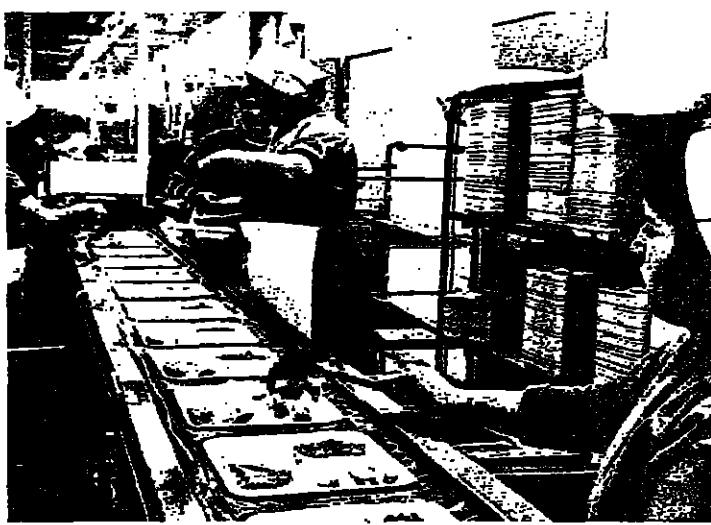
In this spirit, Jordan held its first seminar on women in April of 1976. The goals of this seminar were manifold but essentially its spirit was to be pragmatic and humanitarian. Pragmatic, since more had been needed to commence at run development plans and projects, and humanitarian, attempting to place emphasis on the merit of the individual rather than his sex. The seminar's major premise was that social change had to be channelled, accelerated, and directed. It is in that spirit that the present research was undertaken.

No doubt the findings of a research bear witness to the forces of change in Jordan, indeed Arab, society. The initial resistance to change, perhaps out of respect to tradition mores soon gave way to a resistance soon turned to eagerness and defense. It must be emphasized that there is nothing in our heritage that legitimated against women participating in economic or public life. If anything, the contrary is more true.

As was expected women constitute a small portion of the labour force in Jordan. Mostly, these women are young, single and with relatively low level of education. They are not apprehensive about work and many of their work is a challenge to overcome in itself. These factors explain their absence in big cities, or even in most cases, in the management position. Some of the respondents thought there was an inherent bias against them although the majority thought they were treated fairly and paid equally as men. Married women with children face additional problems of child and home care. Long hours and transportation were problems to many.

Women's attitudes toward work, even with men were positive. Whatever familial objections initially existed wives single daughters were working soon faded away. They themselves, in addition to their families, saw themselves as economically active producers. On whole their attitude as well the attitude of those around them, whether family or employers, was evolutionary, positive and tolerant.

The issue is not whether work. That has been decided. Rather it was question of a pending horizon, providing opportunities, identifying not providing needed labour, a self-fulfillment.



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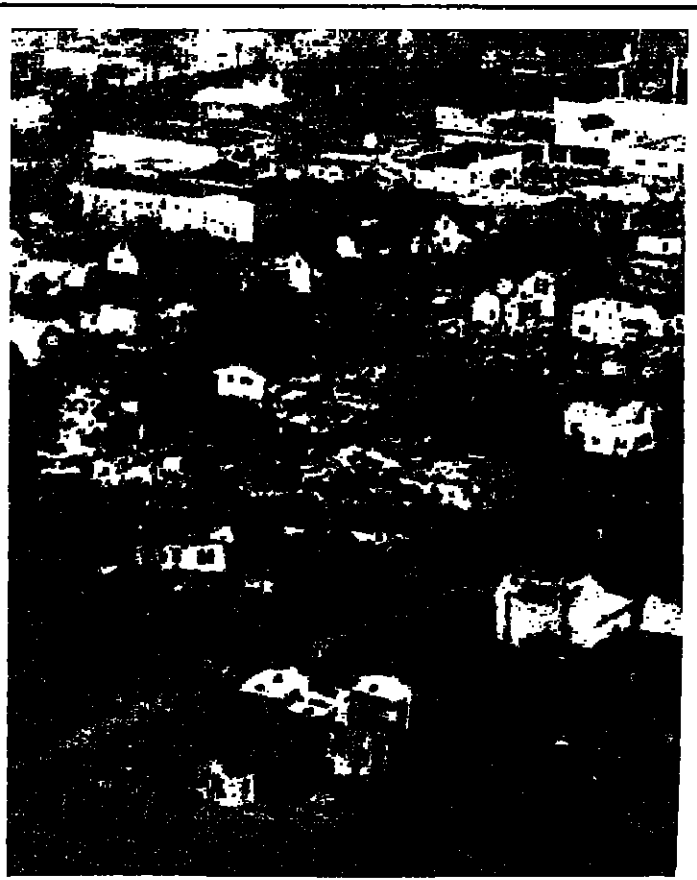
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Jordanian girls undertake science training.



TORNADO AFTERMATH -- Destroyed houses mark the trail of a tornado which overturned one house and broke others into fire wood as it made its way through Augusta, Michigan, Saturday afternoon. (AP wirephoto).

Gandhi blames defeat on propaganda

NEW DELHI, April 6 (R). — Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has defended her controversial younger son Sanjay against criticism and appeared to blame her shock electoral defeat on what she described as a massive propaganda campaign.

In an interview with the Statesman newspaper, the first since her Congress Party was crushed in last month's general elections, Mrs. Gandhi said she could not give credence to attacks on Sanjay by fellow Congress members.

Sanjay Gandhi has been blamed in part for the Congress defeat for his influence during the 19-month emergency declared by his mother and for policies he advocated, particularly the sterilisation programme analysts believe lost north India for the party.

Asked about criticism of Sanjay, the Statesman quoted Mrs. Gandhi as saying: "I mean, if things were so wrong, surely they should have said that before."

She added: "The story that there was somebody guiding me privately from behind has no basis whatsoever in fact". Mrs. Gandhi's interviewer

said he had not been surprised by the election results given the overall mood of the country, but he asked her what went wrong in her own constituency where she was badly beaten.

The former Prime Minister said it was an oversimplification to talk of the mood of the country, "except that it is true that newspapers and exaggerated stories of what was happening have been spread a great deal... there was a massive propaganda campaign..."

Vienna talks on Cyprus show no sign of agreement

VIENNA, April 6 (R). — Greek-Cypriot negotiators today presented written proposals for a bi-communal federal state in Cyprus as the latest round of talks on the future of the island neared an end here with no sign of agreement.

Greek-Cypriot spokesman Andreas Christophides said two documents were being presented: one on the basic principles for a federal state and

another on the powers and functions of a central government.

The Turkish Cypriots, seeking safeguards against what they see as the possibility of discrimination by the larger Greek-Cypriot community, last week tabled their own proposals for a loose form of federal administration.

Greek-Cypriot envoy Tassos Papadopoulos rejected the Turkish-Cypriot plan saying it would give too little power to a central government and too much to regional bodies.

The two sides are also deadlocked on how much territory each community should occupy, and on issues of freedom of settlement, movement and property ownership.

The talks, which are led by the U.N. Secretary General's Special Representatives for Cyprus, Dr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, end tomorrow, when a date is expected to be announced for their resumption in Nicosia.

ELF guerrillas seize Tessenet, arrest 300 Ethiopian troops

KHARTOUM, April 6 (AFP). — Eritrean nationalist guerrillas seized the important town of Tessenet 30 kms from Sudan's eastern border yesterday, "arresting" 300 Ethiopian troops, Radio Omdurman reported today.

Eritrean "people's militia" forces were hunting 45 Ethiopian soldiers who escaped, the radio said. Tessenet had been under artillery siege by Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) guerrillas for three days during which Ethiopian forces suffered "heavy" losses in men and arms, according to the broadcast.

Heavy pressure by guerrilla forces led to an Ethiopian attempt to evacuate the town, it said, adding that many Ethiopian tanks were destroyed and Tessenet's mining works and electric power station wrecked in the fighting.

The daily Al Sahafa newspaper reported here today that Eritrean troops had occupied the town of Atingidder near the border after a day of fierce fighting.

According to Al Sahafa, most of the Ethiopian garrison in the town were "exterminated" and an unspecified number gave themselves up to the Eritreans. Seven guerrillas were killed and 51 wounded in the battle, the Khartoum daily said.

Quoting its correspondent in Kassala on the Sudanese side of the border, Al Sahafa said 107 Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees entered Sudan last night.

The fall of Tessenet and Ali Gidder means the secessionists

now control virtually the whole border area, observers here say.

Since the EPLF took Nakfa, giving them virtual domination of Eritrea's northern district of Sahel, the guerrillas have stepped up their pressure on Keren, the main town between Eritrea's northwestern border with Sudan and the capital, Asmara.

Remaining Ethiopian units in the area are said to be in an extremely tight military situation, according to reports reaching here. The ELF are thought to be holding back from any attempt to seize the bigger towns and the capital while talks on unification move toward climax.

Two of Eritrea's secessionist movements are to meet in Cairo early next month to try

and persuade the third movement, the EPLF, to join a common front, according to Middle East News Agency report.

Sudan, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are said to be backing efforts to achieve unification of the Marxist EPLF and the two other groups -- the ELF which is headed by a Revolutionary Council (RC-ELF) and its splinter group, the ELF Popular Liberation Forces (ELF-PLF), according to MENA.

The RC-ELF and the ELF PLF are offshoots of the original ELF formed in 1961 (the year Eritrea was absorbed into Ethiopia as a province after the late Emperor Haile Selassie).

The ELF split in 1970, and the PLF subsequently emerged as a Marxist splinter of the ELF-PLF.

Owen's strategy on Rhodesia receives no welcome in Salisbury

SALISBURY, April 6 (AFP). — London reports suggesting that Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen will propose that Britain should convene and chair a conference to devise a constitution for an independent black-ruled Rhodesia have not been well received here.

Both Premier Ian Smith and Foreign Affairs Minister Pieter Van der Byl are out of the country at present and no formal comment on the British strategy is available but government sources have said that the idea will not be welcomed.

The sources pointed to the fact that Mr. Smith has refused to attend any constitutional conference without a basic formula first being devised, the Victoria Falls conference in 1975 and last year's Geneva conference being prime examples.

Government sources here said that the British plan could well turn out to be another Geneva, where argument over detail bogged down the proceedings and the format accepted by Mr. Smith in the form of the Kissinger proposals was totally ignored.

The current division among the black nationalists would in itself preclude an abortive conference, the sources said,

noting that while one national list group was calling for a national referendum to resolve the black nationalist leadership struggle, other nationalist leaders had already rejected the proposal.

Government sources here pointed out that the apparent new British strategy also ignored the need to resolve the nationalist leadership squabble. Mr. Smith and the South African government regarded as important in paving the way towards any negotiations.

Mr. Smith was expected to agree to consider the British proposal on its merits but was doubtful whether he would either accept or practice in the current circumstances where the black leaders could not agree among themselves let alone with the whites.

It is expected that Dr. Owen and Mr. Smith will discuss the British initiative at their meeting in Cape Town next week, the sources said. But Mr. Smith is also likely to press the referendum proposal supported by the Rhodesian and South African governments, an essential first step in promoting any form of formal negotiation.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Unemployment in Western Europe could reach highest in 30 years

GENEVA, April 6 (R). — Unemployment in Western Europe this year could be the highest since World War Two, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) said in its annual survey today.

The survey said Western Europe's recovery from economic recession lost its momentum in the second half of 1976 and there was little sign of a sustained upswing in the immediate future.

The prospect was that an already unsatisfactory rate of growth would be unchanged or even slow down this year.

But last year's average 10.5 per cent inflation rate in Western Europe was likely to drop to nine per cent this year, the survey said.

The 34-nation ECE, which includes the communist East European countries, will issue a separate report later on East European economic developments, the survey said.

It said imbalances in trade among West European countries, coupled with the trade surpluses of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), had put mounting pressures on the international financial system.

"These pressures will continue to increase and there is a risk that lack of adequate international financial intermediation will become a restraint on growth and trade," the ECE survey said.

The rate of growth in the volume of world trade this year could be no more than half that achieved in 1976, the survey said.

It said the export-led growth some small countries were seeking depended on a more vigorous development of domestic demand in large countries.

But the survey warned of the dangers of a concerted economic effort by the major industrialised countries to cut unemployment by returning rapidly to earlier high levels of

utilisation of capacities.

It said such a boom would accelerate inflation, which had so far barely been brought under control.

The present preoccupation with reducing short-term inflation could be at the expense of moderating it in the long-term, the survey said.

The ECE survey said domestic economic policy should be complemented by an agreement on desirable and sustainable patterns of medium-term international debt.

stockpiling in anticipation of last January's oil price hike.

Daily output rose steadily during the year, climbing from 28.1 million barrels in the first quarter to 33.5 million barrels in the final three months of 1976.

Largest increases were posted by Libya -- which boosted production by 30.6 per cent compared to 1975 -- and Saudi Arabia, which expanded by 21.2 per cent, the review said.

Saudi Arabia remained the largest single OPEC oil producer, lifting an extra 1.5 million barrels a day for a total daily extraction of 8.6 million barrels.

Other hefty production increases were achieved by Ecuador (up 16.8 per cent), Nigeria (15.9).

The Saudis accounted for 28 per cent of total OPEC production, followed by Iran (19.2), Venezuela (7.5) and Iraq (also 7.5).

However, Venezuela, along with Gabon, recorded lower production levels, although output was sharply up in Gabon during the final quarter, the review added.

Production of crude oil in the 13 OPEC countries in 1975 totalled 27.2 million barrels a day -- 1.4 million barrels a day less than in 1976.

New York City faces bleak future

WASHINGTON, April 6 (R). — Debt-plagued New York City faces a bleak prospect when federal loans run out next year, congressional investigators said today.

Even if it succeeds in balancing its budget, it is not certain it can attract non-government funds, according to a report by the General Accounting Office, set up to monitor the city's pull-back from the brink of bankruptcy.

The investigators said Congress should not agree to any huge rescue plan by the federal government. Any further loans should carry conditions to discourage the city from borrowing.

Responsibility for returning to financial health rested on the city itself, it said.

But in another report, the office said New York would continue to have difficulty in cutting expenditures and under the best circumstances would face extraordinary financial pressures in the late 1970's and 1980's.

Bangladesh, UAE expand cooperation

ABU DHABI, April 6 (R). — The Bangladesh Planning and Foreign Trade Minister, Dr. Mirza Nurul Huda, had talks here today with United Arab Emirates (UAE) ministers on ways of expanding economic cooperation between the two countries, officials said.

Dr. Huda, who arrived here last night for a three-day official visit, met the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Seif Ibn Ghobash, who said later the UAE had agreed to send a diplomatic representative to Dacca before the end of the year.

Mr. Ghobash said it was agreed in his talks with Dr. Huda that the best way to promote further economic cooperation between the two countries was through development institutions such as the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development and the exchange of visits by the two countries chambers of commerce.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

HONG KONG, April 6 (R). — Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah arrived in Peking today for an official visit, his third to China, the New China News Agency reported.

TEL AVIV, April 6 (R). — Israeli hospitals accepted only emergency cases today as doctors stayed a 24-hour strike in protest against the government's failure to pay them salary increases under a recent wage agreement. Skeleton medical teams staffed the hospitals.

NICOSIA, April 6 (R). — President Makarios of Cyprus, who suffered a mild heart attack on Sunday, is continuing to make satisfactory progress, a medical bulletin said today. It said Archbishop Makarios, 63, spent a quiet night and was still under constant medical care.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices lost a little ground Wednesday on the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average lost a little more than one point in low trading.

Analysts said the market kept a low profile today biding time until the government releases its March wholesale price figure Thursday.

Declines outnumbered advances at the close by a 681 to 648 margin.

Most groups of shares ended the day on a fixed to lower tone. Among the most active shares, Sears Roebuck lost 2 5/8 at 57 5/8 and Bally Manufacturing lost 1 3/8 at 24 1/8.

At the close the industrial average shows at 914.73, a loss of 1.41 points; Transp at 222.78, a loss of 0.39; utilities at 107.14, a gain of 0.16. 16,600,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,200,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Government stocks Wednesday closed a little below the day's highs while leading industrials finished around their lower levels, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was down 2.1 at 400.4.

Light buying interest and hopes of a small cut in the minimum lending rate tomorrow prompted gains of up to 5/8 after 7/8 in long-dated government loans, while shorts were around 1/4 higher. Leading equities ended a penny or so easier with little interest ahead of the Easter holiday, dealers added.

Mining shares finished above the day's lows as the gold bullion price rallied at the afternoon fixing, but Australians were mostly easier where changed.

GKN lost around 14p among leading equities after full year results and news of a £86.8 million rights issue while W.H. Smith gained 16p after its full year figures and ready mixed concrete edged a penny higher after results.

Insurances were generally a few pence easier, and figures from sun alliance, Phoenix and Guardian Royal Exchange saw Guardian Royal edge a penny higher while Sun and Phoenix lost 10p and 5p respectively. Banks were little changed while Soec oils tanded a few pence higher dealers said.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at \$148.00/oz.

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